6.

Englands Glory.

BY THE

Benefit of *Wool* Manufactured therein, from the *Farmer* to the *Merchant*; and the *Evil* Consequences of its Exportation Unmanufactured.

Briefly Hinted,

With Submission to better Judgments.

THere is no King nor Prince in the World, known by experience, or upon Record, that hath such means to support their Splendour and Greatness as his Majesty of great *Britain*, nor ha any Country or Nation such variety of staple Commodities within it self, and in such abundance, as hath the Kingdom of *England*, which are said by some to a Hundred Native Commodities, which produceth a Thousand orts of Manufactures; So that if those advantages were duly im-

proved, *England* might be a general Mart for the whole World, and then by consequence be the glory thereof. That those advantages are not improved is too too obvious to all that look into it, by the sore complaints that are frequently made of the great poverty and decay thereof; and indeed (which is worst of all) by that general desperation of spirit which will not put forth a hand to help, support, or prevent the total desolation of our Country, upon a prepossest opinion, that all endeavours will be rendred fruitless and abortive.

The consideration whereof hath greatly prompted me (who must confess my self the meanest of Thousands more concerned) to use the utmost of my little skill, and unwearied diligence (though but as the Womans mite) to the right management of so great an undertaking; that the threatned ruine of all may be prevented, and (if possible) some good part of what is lost may be recovered. And whereas many have taken in hand to set forth these things, some treating of one thing, and other of another, which if all was collected and harmonized, it might very much conduce to the promoting of this weighty affair, of so publick a value: I shall confine my self to those things only, whereof I have had not only credible information, but a considerable (though a sad) experimental knowledge; and in a more particular and especial manner that of *Woot*, and of its Manufacture and Consequences, which amongst many, is the Richest Treasure in his Majesties Dominions, the flower, strength, and sinews of this Nation; a Land uniting the People into Societies, for their own Utility; it is the Milk and Honey to the Grazier and Country Farmer; the Gold and Spices of the East and West *Indies* to the Merchant, and Citizens, the continued supply of Bread to the Poor: and in a word, the Exchequer of wealth, and staple of protection to the whole, both abroad and at home; and therefore of full merit to be had in perpetual remembrance, defence, and encouragement for the most advantageous improvement thereof.

The *Wools* of *England* (before it was manufactured within it self) have ever been of great account and esteem abroad, sufficiently testified unto, by the great amity, which it begat, and for many Hundred Years (inviolably) maintained, between the King of *England* and Dukes of *Burgundy*, only for the great benefit, that (from

that

that Commodity) did accrew to that People, insomuch that the *English* Wools, they receiv'd at 6 *d. per* Pound, they returned again (through their industrious manufacture thereof) in Cloth, at 10 *s. per* Yard, to the great inriching of that State, both in the advancement of the Revenues of their Soveraign, and in a full employment (thereby) continued among the People; whereby the Merchants of this Nation were occasioned, (as a People unwilling to be wholly disprivileged of so great a benefit) to transport themselves (with their Families (in great numbers) into *Flanders*, from whence they held a constant Commerce with most parts of the World; this continued without intermission, between *England* and *Burgundy*, until King *Edward* the 3*d.* made his mighty Conquests over *France*, & *Scotland*, and as a suitable improvement of so great a mercy, did wisely project, and also accomplish the manufacture of Wools within the Bowels of this Kingdom, to the great inriching of his own People, and also to the Peopling of his new Conquered Dominions; the memory of whose wisdome and care for his People, is worthy to be had in remembrance by *English* Men, unto the Worlds end.

The said King having thus setled the manufacture of Wools within the Kingdom of *England*, confined it by a penal Statute, which (at first) reached not only to Goods, Chattels, and Land, but also to Members, and Life it self; but in a short time repealed the two latter thereof, continuing the other in its full force to remain to future Generations: which exceeding great advantage to the prosperity of the *English* Trade, hath now continued these ThreeHundred Years, by the vigilancy of the Kingdoms Monarchs, and the protection of its Laws, in the continued careful execution thereof upon offenders, with more than a little diligence to provide against the thirsting desires of Foreiners to wrest this Native priviledge (of so great a moment) out of *English* hands, which by the providence of God (through the great care of our Ancestors) has been (for many Ages) enjoyed by the Nation, as it is indeed its proper right: But so it is, that (for some years past) the diligence of Foreiners, to enrich themselves upon us, has so much exceeded our care to preserve our selves, that it's now come to, if not beyond a question, Who have the greatest benefit of the manufacture of *English* Wools, they who have no right unto it, or they to whom of right it doth belong? That

That this is indeed ſo, will appear, by conſidering that not only *Holland*, *Flanders*, and *Zealand* have long ſucked the ſweetneſs of the ſinews of our Trade; but *France* is likewiſe learning to be too hard for us, as is manifeſt by the great quantities of Wools, that (of late years) have been tranſported from *England* and *Ireland* thither; how injurious it muſt be to us, is alſo unqueſtionable, if we conſider the conſequence thereof, which was (without queſtion) much in the Eye of our Anceſtors, as appeares by what is above hinted in *Edward* the 3*ds* time, and in ſeveral Kings Reigns ſince.

Every Pack of Wool ſent to *France*, doth prevent us (not only) of the benefit of the manufacture thereof, but of two Packs more beſides it ſelf, *viz.* Thus, it being combing, and combed Wool (for the moſt part) exported thither, the *French* (having no Wools of their own, but ſuch as are very courſe) are not able to make Cloth, or fine Stuff, without the conjunction of ours therewithall; there being none (to my beſt information) fit for that purpoſe in all the World, but ours only, all other being likewiſe courſe, but *Spaniſh*, and that much too fine (eſpecially for Worſted Stuffs, and not in any wiſe fit for combing; ſo that without *Engliſh* or *Iriſh* Wools there can be no fine Worſted Stuffs, nor a middle ſort of Cloth made, in the whole World; neither will any Wools be well mixed together, but *Engliſh* and *Spaniſh*, (only for Cloth) becauſe the *Spaniſh* is with the *Engliſh* of one nature, being formerly *Engliſh* Sheep, though now much finer, from the alteration of the Climate, and the nature of the Land whereon it is fed, as by good experience appeareth here in *England*, both neer, and at a farther diſtance.

Wherefore the exportation of *Engliſh* Wools into *France* muſt of neceſſity be greatly prejudicial to this Nation, not only in the quantity ſent over, but alſo in the advantage which is thereby given them to manufacture a double portion of their own Wool, (which formerly was little worth) into ſuch commodities, as ſpoyls us of the advantage of our proper Trade, not only thither, but alſo into other parts, *viz.* in theſe three reſpects.

Firſt, The combed of the *Engliſh* Wool makes Wooffe for the Warpes of the *French* Wool, and ſo takes up (it may be) as much as the quantity above ſpecified, to every Pack of *Engliſh* Wool, with-

without which, they can (only) with their Wool make Rugs, and at the beſt, Cloth for Sea-men, and the like.

2*dly*. Their combings or pinnions, *viz.* the ſhort Wool that's combed out of the Worſted, ſerves for their Linnen warp to make ſome of their Druggets, becauſe their Linnen being fine ſpun, and coloured, is not diſcernable to all Perſons, to be that we call *Linſie Woolſie*.

3*dly*. The fineſt ſhort *Engliſh* Wool is mixed with the loweſt of *Spaniſh* Wool, called ſhort Wool, for ſome of their beſt Druggets, that is woove for Worſted Chanies, and alſo for a middle ſort of Broad-cloth, about 10 *s*. or 12 *s*. *per* Yard. This is the cauſe (I judg) that ſhort *Spaniſh* Wool is ſo ſcarce here in *England*.

Now if we conſider theſe things together, the dammage of the exporting of this one Pack from *England* to *France*, at about 10 *l*. or 12 *l*. Sterling, preventing the manufacturing of two Packs more in *England*, which would be worth one 100 *l*. *Englands* loſs (in the whole) by the exportation of a Pack of Wool, is little leſs than 90 *l*. in its firſt exportation, moreover conſidering the Cuſtom paid when exported (if manufactured in *England*) with the Frait and Cuſtom where it is imported; the product of all theſe charges augmenting the 100 *l*. when ſold there, laid out in another commodity beyond Sea, the Cuſtom whereof being paid there, with Frait and Cuſtom (when imported) in *England*, it's much, if it do not more than double the firſt principal.

Now, if it be ſo, that the exportation of one Pack of *Engliſh* wool, exported at 10 *l*. or 12 *l*. be neer 200 *l*. dammage to the King and Kingdom in general, is the conſequence, what will be the loſs in the exporting of 10. or 15 Thouſand Packs into *France* (in two Years time) is eaſily accounted (by ſuch) as are concerned in the affaires: And although this evil is almoſt incredible to many, yet it is too manifeſt, to ſuch as have made (ſomething) their buſineſs to look into it; and not only ſo, but theſe further inconveniences muſt (by this means) ariſe upon us.

Firſt, The ſpoyling of our Trade with *France* in all our Woollen manufactures, as doth already appear, by the Impoſt put upon the ſame, there, from 20. to 40. *per Cent*. ſince ſo great quantitie of our VVools is exported thither, whereunto woful experience may be a ſufficient witneſs.

And ſecondly, In time it will capacitate the *French*, as well as the *Dutch*, (if not much better) to under-ſell our *Engliſh* Merchants, in Forrein Parts, nay (poſſibly) in our own Country. (to this, I ſhall only mention the words of a Merchant in *Flanders*, by Letter to another here, treating on this matter thus, *We Engliſh have our throats cut, with our own Weapons, wondering at the ſtupidity of the Engliſh here, that they ſhould ſo long omit, to poſſeſs the King's Majeſty with this deplorable and dangerous caſe, in reſpect to the preſent and future inconveniences thereof.*) by reaſon whereof (as in time the *French* will not only prevent our *Engliſh* woollen manufactures, to be ſold in *France* (as before minded) and alſo in other Forrein Parts, but alſo bring theirs into *England*, and ſell them for four times the value here, to the great inriching of themſelves, and to the impoveriſhing of the *Engliſh*, only by new fantaſtick fopperies, for which the *Engliſh* pay not leſs than ſome hundred thouſands in a year, to get themſelves into the *French* mode. So much (indeed) have we been deceived (in this matter) to our ſhame, as well as to our apparent loſs; that whereas (in time of the late War) with the *Dutch* and *French*, thoſe *French* Druggets were thereby much prevented, many *Engliſh* ſtriped broad-cloths rent through into three parts (about 10 *s. per* Yard, price) being put into the form of *French* Druggets, were ſold in each part at 8 *s. per* Yard; and ſo (in the whole) came to 1 *l.* 4 *s. per* Yard. So likewiſe it is certainly true, that many of thoſe Druggets made here in *England* goe for *French*, and in order thereunto, directed to *French* Men in ſome of our Southern parts, have from thence been conveighed unto *London* (and there ſold for *French* Goods) to have coloured the buſineſs with the Cuſtom-houſe Officers, to ſave the Cuſtom of *French* Druggets. And this continued long, before the cheat could be diſcovered; but being once found out by the Clothier, (who could not (to his own private advantage) conceal ſuch an apparent injury to his Country, it was ſoon prevented: whereby we may come to ſee (with clearneſs) the advantage, that that People makes upon our *Engliſh* fanſies, by over-ſelling us in the ſame kind of commodities, that they make out of our *Engliſh* Wools, joyned (as before minded) with their own; having alſo an advantage thereunto, by the cheapneſs of the manufactures thereof, beyond what we can do (the *French* being very

very populous, and living harder than we can in *England*; as is evident by their Linnens, that Paying Fraight and Custom with profit to the Merchant, yet can be afforded cheaper than can be made in *England*.

But so it is, that the advantage we give them, besides, in the mixture of our Wools with theirs, is such, that whereas their Wool of it self, is not worth above 4 *l. per* Pack, being mixed with ours, becomes so fit for Worsted-stuffes, as that it comes to be worth no less than 12 *l. per* Pack. So that all those things considered, it becomes obvious to every Eye, (that doth not (wilfully) close it self) that the exportation of Wool from *England* and *Ireland* is of a dangerous and destructive nature to the very being of the Trade of this Kingdom. Whatever objections have been made (with respect to the Graziers present advantage) thereunto, whose loss may possibly be supposed (by prohibiting exportation) to be about 20 *s.* in every Pack of Wool that's so exported: In answer whereunto, I have this to say, That though it may be granted, it will be so for a time in this one particular commodity, yet such will (thereby) be the spoyl of the general Trade of the Nation, that what is gotten in one, will be lost in every other commodity, as Corn, Beefs, and Muttons; on each of which, with the Wools, the Farmers and Graziers advantage doth much more than equally depend; besides the inevitable danger of the ruine of our Trade, and so consequently the starving of our Poor, without some extraordinary means for their support; who while the priviledge of our Trade is kept inviolate with other Nations, we have money plentifully to expend for the advancement of the Farmers and the Graziers; for that is that which chiefly advanceth the Grazier and Farmer, which is Flesh and Corn, and not the quantity of Wool, as afterwards will more fully appear.

And it hath always been observed (in former and latter times) hitherto, that when the Clothiers have had the best Trade at *London*, the Farmer did not loose his share in the advantage thereof in the Country; according to the dispose of providence, who hath ordered Nations, but more especially the People of every Nation, (in matters of this kind) to depend upon each other, and so to rise or fall together, as they are designed to mercy, or to judgment, by the hand of God. These things considered, with a little deliberation,

ration, it will manifeſtly appear, that the exporting of our *Engliſh* Wool, will not only prove the ſpoyl of our Merchants and Clothiers Trade, and ſo conſequently expoſe the Poor to deſperate ſtraits for ſubſiſtence, but (in ſhort time) muſt of neceſſity make the Country-mens imployments (of every kind) to come to little, and ſo make them uncapable of paying Rent.

For, if it be ſo, that while we have but a little Trade, we can hardly live one by another, What may be expected, if our Trade ſhould be taken away? which is now more in danger (by the *French*) than it hath been theſe 300. Years paſt--- And then we may conſider, what the price of Wool may be in *England*, when we by our remiſneſs ſhall loſe our Trade, by the skill and circumventing practices of Foreiners, and we helping forwards for a ſuppoſed profit; For there was not more art and skill in our Anceſtors, to bring home the work at firſt to the Wool, and prohibiting the exportation thereof, and ſetling the manufacturing in *England*, than is now to export the materials thereof unmanufactured. The neceſſary conſequence will be to bring the Price of Wool (as it was 300. Years agon, when moſt was exported) to 6 *d. per* Pound, as appears in a little Piece, called, *The Golden Fleece*, written by *W. S.* Gent.) in the Year, 56. although the Cloth made in *Flanders* of our Wools, at 6 *d. per* Pound, was then ſold here in *England* at 10 *s. per* Yard, when at this Day the Cloth made in *England* of Wool, worth 12 *d. per* Pound will hardly yield 7 *s. per* Yard, which is above 30. *per Cent.* worſe to the *Engliſh* Trade now, than it was to the *Flemmings* formerly.

And though for the preſent, the price of Wool be riſen by its exportation, yet if the quantity lately exported (being no leſs than 20. Thouſand Packs) had been kept in *England*, the quantity (if not with 10. Thouſand Packs more) would in time have been exported in the particular manufactures. For if the Wool was not exported to thoſe places beyond the Seas, there to be manufactured, they muſt of neceſſity have our Woollen manufacture, and then could not have thoſe advantages (as before hinted) by our Wools, to improve the *French* wool, and ſhort *Spaniſh* wool, and their fine-ſpun Linnens.

By all which, it is ſo obvious, that in time to come, the VVools in *England* would be much cheaper, becauſe by the aforeſaid means

means, leſs Wool would be uſed in *England*; and beſides that which would be uſed, the manufacture would be ſo low, that it could not bear up any price (as is begun already in *France*, and will ſuddenly follow in *England*) for it is generally reported, that Wool is as cheap in *France* at this Day, as it is in ſome parts where it is uſed in *England*. And if it be ſo now, what in reaſon can be expected, as the effects of theſe two things? *viz.* The firſt, when the great quantity that is lately exported to *France*, with thoſe three additions before hinted, that the 20. Thouſand Packs helps to work out, and eſpecially moſt making VVorſted Stuffs, which goes as far by that means, as 40. Thouſand Packs of Wool would if uſed in *England*, becauſe it would be made more into ſubſtantial Cloaths, which conſumes more Wool, than thoſe light and thin Stuffes do: which is a ſufficient Anſwer to that Objection, that the great quantity of any commodity, that is exported, muſt be of ſcarcity, and ſo conſequently raiſe the price: which I muſt confeſs, if it was a conſumptive commodity, but it is quite contrary in this. For as our experience is, when the VVool was all uſed in *England*, (or very little exported) then it was 18 *d. per* Pound, and when all, or the greateſt part was exported, it was at 6 *d. per* Pound.

The wiſe Man ſaith, *What is, hath been*; and, *what hath been, may be again*; and ſo no new thing.

I ſhall conclude with a ſhort review of the Graziers and Farmers preſent loſs: In the greateſt Commodity, which pays his Rent, as was formerly hinted. Suppoſe, through want of Trade, Mutton be ſold but at 6 *d. per* Quarter (which is but little) being 2 *s. per* Sheep; and there being ſome Sheep that one 100. will but produce a Pack of Wool (though ſome leſs) that comes to 10 *l.* which is the worth of the Pack of Wool, (and ſo proportionably as to Beefs) which is wholly loſt to the Grazier.

And for the Corn (as I ſuppoſe) there may be about 50 *ls.* worth, (as far as I can judge in my travels, to One Hundred Sheep throughout the Nation, which for want of a Trade, it may not (at ſome ſeaſons) come to Thirty or Forty at moſt; and if a good Trade, it may be worth Sixty or Seventy: By which means may eaſily be demonſtrated, how the Farmers come to be impoveriſhed.

The advantage of the Tenant consists in the advance of the greatest Commodity that pays his Rent, which is not in Wool, but in Corn: and it is a necessary consequence, that there being so many Thousand Families depending upon the Cloathing Trade, which (as before hinted) was instrumental to advance the price of Corn, that where-ever Trade is, there People are most populous, and when those Persons are deprived of their Trade, depending wholly upon it, they must unavoidably come to the Parishes: which is in many Places begun already, and Daily increasing; and feared in time will so increase, that the Poor will be expecting more than there will be to contribute to them. And as there be in many Country Parishes Ten that live on the Trade, for One that can live of himself. VVhat will become of those Parishes, when the Trade is gone? So that it may easily be concluded that the Farmers loss for want of Trade is four-fold greater than the Pack of VVool, by the lowness of the price of Corn. And this is the true reason: for those Persons that formerly, when there was a Trade, could lay out *Ten Shillings* in Corn, have now but *Five Shillings*, which being multiplyed by Hundreds of Thousands in the Nation, it will be no difficult point to see which way the Grazier and Farmer come to be undone, and so are forced to give up their Lands into their Landlords hands: For it is not so much the super-abounding Crops that lessens the price of Corn, but the want of Money. For I have known as much Corn grow Yearly, formerly, as is now, (when Trade was good) to be 20. or 30. *per Cent.* dearer than now.

LONDON,
Printed by *T. M.* in the Year 1669.

SInce the foregoing papers were printed, I met with an Objection againſt what was aſſerted page the 4th. (*viz.*) The *French* having that advantage of our *Engliſh* Wool, to help work up theirs being worſer; and likewiſe, that according to my beſt Information, there was none fit for ſuch purpoſes in all the world, (*viz.*) for fine Worſteds, or a middle ſort of Cloath, but *Engliſh* and *Iriſh* (which is all one;) The Objection were, that there was Wools in moſt parts of the world; therefore why not proper for thoſe purpoſes? Anſwer, that there is Wools was never gainſaid, but that there is ſuch Wool for fineneſs and ſubſtance in all the world, except *Spaniſh*, I cannot as yet ever receive, (as before I hinted) any ſatisfactory accompt. For the better ſatisfaction of the Reader, I ſhall give ſome account of the natures of Wools in *England*, but firſt of *Spaniſh* Wools: They are the fineſt in all the world for Cloath, but not ſo fit for Worſted, being too fine and ſhort, and thoſe Wools alſo are one in nature with our *Engliſh*, being at firſt from Sheep that were *Engliſh* Tranſported thither; and though that be much finer by reaſon of the Climate, yet is it ſtill one in nature; next to it is *Lempſter* Wool, almoſt as fine as *Spaniſh*; then next part of *Shropſhire* and *Stafford-ſhire*, part of *Glocester-ſhire*, *Wilts*, *Dorſet*, *Hampſhire*, part of *Suſſex*, and part of *Kent*, *Summerſet*, *Devon*, and *Cornwall*, moſt part for Cloath, ſome ſmall parts for Worſteds. Amongſt all theſe Counties, there is 9. *d. per* pound difference in the priſes of one place, (*viz.*) *Lempſter*, from ſome other parts; but then again part of *Suſſex* and *Surrey*, *Middleſex*, *Hertfordſhire*, and ſome other Counties 2. *d.* 3. *d. per* pound cheaper then the loweſt of the abovementioned Counties; but then for *Barkeſhire*, *Buckingham*, *Warwick*, *Oxford*, *Leiceſter*, *Nottingham*, *Northampton*,

and *Lincoln*, part of *Kent* called *Rumney Marſh*, moſt part of the laſt mentioned Counties, and part of *Iriſh* Wools is ſo proper for Worſted Stuffs, that all the world cannot be compared with it. And hence it is, that the cares of our Anceſtors have been ſuch, (ever ſince King *Edward* the 3d. in moſt Kings Reignes) there have been ſome Lawes made or altered, and in ſome Kings Reigns altered three or four times to make it effectual: and for a memorial to future Generations, are the Wool-packs in the Lords Houſe in *Weſtminſter* for Seats, to put them in mind of what is the foundation of the Riches of the Kingdome, that it is by the various ſtreams of the Manufactures thereof, as formerly in the Front briefly hinted from the Farmer to the Merchant. I ſhall now endeavour to give ſome particular account how all are conſerved; And before I do this, give me leave to infert the Obſervation of a worthy Author Sir *Walter Rawleigh*, that I have met withal ſince the former Papers were Written, who ſaith, That, then which was in King *James's* Reign, about fourſcore thouſand undreſt & undyed Cloaths yearly were Tranſported: whereby it was evident that the Kingdome hath been yearly deprived of about 400000 l. which in fifty five years is near 20 Millions, that would have been gained by the labour of poor Workmen in that time, with the Merchants gains for bringing in dying Stuffs, and returns of Cloaths dreſt and dyed, with other benefits to the Realm, beſides exceeding inlargeing of Traffick, and increaſe of Ships and Mariners.

There would have been gained in that time, about three Millions by increaſe of Cuſtoms upon Commodities returned for Cloaths dreſt and dyed, and for dying Stuffs which would have been more plentifully brought in and uſed for the ſame.

There hath been alſo Tranſported in that time yearly, by Bayes, *Northern* and *Devonſhire* Kerzyes white, about 50000. Cloaths counting three Kerſyes to a Cloath, whereby hath been loſt about five Millions by thoſe ſorts of Cloaths, in that time which would have come to poor Work-men for their labour, with Cuſtoms for dying Stuffs, and the peoples profit for bringing them in with returns of other Commodities and Fraights for ſhipping.

Bayes are Tranſported white into *Amſterdam*, and being there dyed

dyed and dreſt, are ſhipped into *Spain*, *Portugal*, and other Kingdomes, where they are ſold in the name of *Flemiſh* Bayes, ſetting their own Town Seals upon them; ſo that we loſe the very name of our home-bred Commodities, and other Countrys get the Reputation and Credit thereof. Lamentable it is that this Land ſhould be deprived of ſo many above-mentioned Millions, as that our Native Commodities of Cloath, ordained of God for the natural Subjects, being ſo Royal and rich in it ſelf, ſhould be driven to ſo ſmall advantage of Reputation & Profit to your Majeſty and People, and ſo much improved and intercepted by Strangers; conſidering that God hath enabled and given your Majeſty power to advance dreſſing and dying, and Tranſporting all your Cloaths within a year or two: I ſpeak it knowingly, to ſhew how it may be done laudibly, lawfully, and approved to be Honourable, feaſeable, and profitable.

He obſerves alſo the increaſe of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, by bringing in and ſpending of dying Stuffs, as alſo ſtrength in ſhipping, & ſetting ſo many thouſands of poor on work; alſo noting that in the Low-Countrys, where theſe Cloaths are dreſt and dyed, they ſtretch them to ſuch unreaſonable length, contrary to our Law, that they prevent and foreſtale our Markets, and croſs the juſt prohibition of our State and Realm, by their Agents, and Factors, lying in divers places with our own Cloaths, to the great decay of this Kingdome in general, & diſcredit to our Cloaths in particular. Again, he adds, that if the accounts were truly known, it would be found that they make not clear profit only by Cloath Tranſported rough, undreſt, and undyed, ſixty thouſand pounds a year; but it is moſt apparent your Majeſty, in your Cuſtoms, your Merchants in their Sales and Prizes; your Subjects in their Labours, for lack of dreſſing and dying; your Ships and Mariners in not bringing in of dying Stuffs, ſpending of *Alum* (if not *Copperas*) are hindered yearly near a Million of pounds: So that Trade is driven to that great hinderance of your Majeſty and People, by permitting your Native Commodities to paſs rough, undreſt, and undyed. Thus Sir *Walter Rawleigh*.

Now if it was thus with *England* ſo long agoe, when the Wool was ſpun and made here into ſubſtantial Cloath; and that for want only of dreſſing and dying, many Millions were loſt to the King and Kingdom: What then hath been the loſs of ſo many

thousand Packs of Wool exported (without any improvement), especially that to *France*, the consequence of which is more prejudicial (as hath been demonstrated) than can be imagined (accounting but one hundred pounds dammage by one Pack of Wool,) of which there are no less than ten thousand yearly, if not much more exported, by which there is dammage a Million of pounds *sterling*, yearly to this Kingdome, (besides the suffering of the Poor for want of Imployment) out of which his Majesties dammage cannot be less then 100000. pound yearly: The lessening of Shipping, and discouragement of Mariners; the Walls of this Kingdome hereby deserve also to be considered.

Next then to his Majestyes loss, is that of the Merchant and Cloathier; after which must follow detriment to all other persons depending on Trade, there being such a Connexion of Trades one to another, and (the whole of Trade being enlarged by the abounding of Laborious People. Those supply the Farmers and Graziers with money, for you to supply the Gentry. They again scatter it amongst the Tradesmen, as may be witnessed by the building of the City of *London*, how Provision and all Consumptive goods are advanced by it: by which circulation all degrees are either imployed, enriched, or both; and hence naturally comes Content, Harmony, and Pleasure, one in another; the Poor being by Imployment delivered from fear of want, the Gentry, Merchant, and Tradesmen, by the establishment of Trade therein. This Rationally is the strength of any People, Poverty and Idleness brings their shame and Ruine, which would unavoidably follow want of Trade. And so much the more where the greatest Trade hath been; if it fails, the greater Poverty is and will be. And to instance, as here, in *London*, the Trade in Provision is the more, so by Consequence it must be dear, and so best for all; so of the other hand, if the City should be forced to keep so many thousands, when all their work is done, as is now in the Building, it would be a great burden: so the case is in *England* in this particular, where great Trade have been formerly kept, and drawn several Families thither, and have raised Commodities there; but when it fails, it is a miserable state and condition those places are in. To return, in short

there.

there is ſuch Connextion and dependency one upon another in *England*, that if one fail, all the reſt more or leſs, either more near, or remotely are concerned; as in the natural body, when any member fails, the whole ſuffers thereby; and as all Trades and degrees of men may ſuffer by one miſtake in Trades, and in none more probably. I will ſay then this of Wool; as Merchants, Artificers, Farmers, Sea-men, Fiſher-men, being the people, which by their ſtudy and labour do principaly, if not only bring in, or give occaſion to the bringing in of wealth to the Nation, and other kind of people (*viz.*) Nobility, Gentry, Lawyers, Phyſicians, Schollars of all ſorts; Shop-keepers are they that receive from theſe, and diſtribute it again, and all are conſequently concerned in this rich Treaſure of Wool, becauſe this being a Manufacture at home, ſets more hands at work than half the Nation.

May I not with modeſty and within Compaſs, ſay three parts of Laborious and Induſtrious people? conſidering that moſt of the ſhipping is imployed in this affair, and alſo ſo many Trades that depend immediatly upon this of Cloathing, that moſt of other Trades are but for Proviſion, either in Food or Conveniencies for Cloathing: and ſo from his Majeſty to the meaneſt, all are more or leſs concerned, *The King moſtly*; not only in that his People are by that moſt imployed and provided for, nor in that ſuch a Staple Trade, the like whereunto the world hath not with good Advantage thereby is maintained; but becauſe ſo great a Revenue comes directly into him upon the Trade, occaſioned thereby: Thus as the King gains, or ſuffers moſt, ſo the perſons that have the greateſt Eſtates or Trades, and ſo all proportionably to the Beggar. And alſo conſidering that an accuſtomary thing begets ſuch an habit that is hard to reduce; as in our rough and undreſt Cloath to *Holland*, ſo it will be with all our Manufactures in *France*; nay I am informed that the *French* hath not only impoſed a great Tax upon our Woollen Manufactures, from twenty to forty *per cent*, but have alſo (as is affirmed, beſide that their impoſition) abſolutely prohibited our Cloaths coming there. I am the more large in the demonſtration of this affair, not only becauſe this hath coſt me many years labour and ſtudy to conſult all ſorts of concerned perſons, beſides

ſides mine own experience about it; nor becauſe it is ſo hard to convince people of the meanſt capacity, but ſome of the wiſer ſort, how to cure this diſmal malady: which ſome deſpairing of, have rather thoughts of ſetting up ſome other Manufacture in Lieu of endeavours to prevent the exportation of Wool and Manufacturing of that at home, looking thereon as a thing not to be overcome, (as that of Linnens in ſome capable parts of *England*) and a better improvement in the product of forrein plantations, which may alſo be ſet upon together herewith as an addition; ſo as ſeveral ſorts of perſons may be ſet better on work, not capable of this employment, and yet no prejudice to this of Cloathing: for all other Countryes have the advantage of *England*, or are equal to us in other Manufactures proper to their Countreys, but not in this of Cloathing: and it will be found that all Trades in *England*, wholly diſtinct from this of Cloathing, bring not the tythe of advantage that this doth.

Since men cannot rationally believe the effects to be greater than the cauſe, the moſt of other Manufactures either is in being, or brought to uſe, by the Manufactures of Wool; even from the Farmer to the Merchant all are concerned in this of Wool, as may hereafter more appear. It now remains that we ſum up *Englands* loſs by the exportation of our Wool to Forrein Parts; not only in the advantage we might have by the Manufactureing thereof, here in *England*, as formerly noted; but alſo in the importing af *Dutch* Cloath, and more in *French* Manufactures, becauſe *England* improves not their own Wools; and of the humour of *Engliſh* people, in putting ſuch a value upon *French* fancies, when themſelves are in a better capacity, if improved, to produce the like, or better, and ſave the following ſums.

1. One Million of pounds *Sterling* yearly, in the Exportation of our Wool.

2. Five hundred thouſand pounds in rough Cloath, which is but half what Sir *Walter Rawleigh* obſerves in his time.

3. One hundred thouſand pound yearly, in Importing *French* Manufactures ſuperfluous.

4. Many thouſand pounds in Importing *Dutch* Cloath.

5. And laſtly, the evil conſequences thereof in loſeing our Shipping, which would be encouraged thereby, & are the ſtrength or walls

Walls of our Kingdome, as more particularly doth appear hereafter.

Having now discovered the dammage, it is to *England*, in the Transportation of Wool from the King to the meaueſt, *I* ſhall endeavour alſo to diſcover the methods how it is done; and before I ſhall preſcribe Remedy (for it is not enough to know diſtempers, eſpecially ſuch that are ſo Conſumptive,) it is requiſite to know the cauſe of thoſe diſtempers; or elſe the ſuppoſed Remedies will in time come to be a diſeaſe, as it is too much in this caſe at this day in *England*: where the cauſes are miſtaken, the Remedies are conſequently miſapplyed, whereby a diſeaſe in ſuppoſition becomes one in *effect*; the methods or ways of this evil are---Firſt, in *Rumny Marſh* in *Kent*, where the greateſt part of rough Wooll is exported from *England*, put aboard French Shallops by night, ten or twenty men well armed to guard it; ſome other parts there are, as in *Suſſex*, *Hampſhire*, and *Eſſex*, the ſame methods may be uſed, but not ſo conveniently. The ſame for coombed Wool from *Canterbury*, they will carry it ten or fifteen miles at night towards the Sea, with the like guard as before; but for other parts it muſt be done partly by the Remiſneſs of the Officers of his Majeſties Cuſtoms, and eaſie Compoſition for the forfeitures of the Bonds, as more ſhall appear anon.

And then for coombed Wool in other parts, ſome is ſhipped off from *London* for Bales of Drapery; nay ſome at *Lime*, and alſo at *Exon*, where there is ten thouſand pounds Sterling weekly laid out in the woollen Manufactury, which is moſt for Workmens wages: *I* know no place clear; and then another reaſon, why perſons are not detected, is, becauſe all the wools that have been taken in thoſe parts, where moſt hath been exported, have been ſuffered to go off at the ſame places after Judgments paſt, and by the Officers, to the ſame perſons at a low rate, being under rated to thoſe very men that intended to ſhip it at firſt: ſo that the evil is never like to be avoyded that way; only that which is taken, happily may be a little the dearer, to keep the Trade going; for I have enquired, and cannot underſtand, but of two parcels of wool that have been ſeaſed on in *Kent*, that have been uſed in *England*, but all ſent away, and ſo his Majeſties providence

dence is cheated, who keeps Servants at great wages to prevent ſuch abuſes.

And then another cheat is under a pretenſe of wool from *Hampton*, to the Iſlands of *Jerſey* and *Gernſey*,& ſometimes from other parts which is againſt the Law; for there is no wool to be exported to thoſe Iſlands, but only from *Hampton*, and that by Law ſhould be by weight: but now it goes by groſs, by the pack when it ſhould be weighed, but I believe not one pack in ten is weighed, for three packs is put into one. Then from *Ireland*, which is the greateſt miſchief of all to *England*, and much increaſed ſince the Act was in force againſt Cattel, the *Iriſh* wool can be ſold as cheap in *France*, *Holland*, and *Flanders*, as it is in thoſe places where wool is uſed in *England*, which is a great augmentation to us of prejudice for Foreiners to have our wool ſo cheap as we in *England*, having other conveniencies to underwork us as formerly hinted. The wayes there muſt be by the careleſsneſs of the Officers, in not taking ſolvant ſecurity and exactneſs in the weight of wool, and true examination of the returns of their Certificates, and partly by eaſie compoſitions, if not before bonds are forfeited, and happily much combed Wool there packt up as before, as bailes of Cloath, or barrels of Beef, and ſhiped as *Iriſh* Cloath; and in all points ſo cunningly carryed, as they are ſeldome diſcovered, and never ſealed as the Statutes in that caſe made and provided, do ſtrictly require.

Here ſee what *W. S.* ſaith: *Now to ſhew you more particularly theſe abuſes, how the Laws are croſſed and daily obſtructed to ſuch as endeavour to ſerve their Country, by ſuch as ought to encourage the proſecutors; ſure there will be very many practiſes of evil conſequents diſcovered; for firſt in the Cuſtom-Houſe, where bonds are taken, to the intent that theſe prohibited Commodities paſs not by means of Mariners out of the Nation, but only from Port to Port for accommodation of ſuch parts as want ſuch Commodities; they are very Remiſs and careleſs in taking of the Sea-mens diſcharge of their Obligatory Conditions; where alſo it is uſual with the Sea-men to bring fradulent Certificates, and ſo to cheat the Kings Providence, who keeps Servants at great wages purpoſely to prevent ſuch abuſes; or if there be a regular return of there Bonds,*

yet

yet there is commonly a fraudulency in giving them, for the Maſters of ſhips will ſo continue their deſigne, as he who is Maſter at giving the Bonds, and is legally bound, ſhall immediatly paſs his Intereſt to another man, who taking charge of the Veſſel and Voyage, is notwithſtanding not engaged in the Poart Bond; and therefore, neither is he accomptable for breach of their condition, again, when the Port bonds are juſtly taken, and as juſtly returned; yet to prevent the true and real detection of the offender, and to diſhearten the legal proſecutor, ſome friends of the offender will clap an information againſt him, purpoſely to hinder and divert others, and ſoon after will let the Proſecution fall at his pleaſure; nay, it hath been ſaid, and peradventure not unjuſtly, that ſuch preventing informations have been antidated to the over-throw of the regal information; but when all is granted, and a full and formal hearing, and decree paſſed to the juſt condemnation of the offender: Yet when judgments and inquieries are granted, and without errours of the Clarks, (which is not always,) impower the Sheriffs and their Bayliffs to ſee Execution thereof made; it is familiar with thoſe Officers to return a non eſt inventus, or a mortus eſt, viz. Not to be found, or dead, even then when the Offenders and the Officers have been known to be drinking together, at that very time when the Writ ſhould have been executed.

After all this, one ſtep farther will ſhew how charrety it ſelf abuſeth Juſtice; for let all the former proceedings be granted, and be candid, and clear, and that the Law be indeed juſtly and legally executed; the offender in cuſtody, and nothing remaining; but that he honeſtly diſcharge hiaſelf with money, ſeeing Bail will not be admitted; nevertheleſs upon a lamentable Petition, and urging a great charge of Children to the Bench, the Offender is uſually admitted to compound for Ten in the Hundred, or leſs, when by his offence he hath gained a Hundred for Ten, or more, and peradventure hath undone a hundred Families or more in ſo doing: Yet all this while the honeſt Proſecutor, the only man that appears for the good of his Country, who ought by the Law to have the full benefit and advantage of the Law gratis, it being enough that he ſpend his time for the promotion of the publick Weal, after it hath coſt him ſe-

val great ſums of money, & large expenſe of time, to bring the Offender to Tryal and Conviction, is diſmiſſed with little or no ſatisfaction, unleſs he be rewarded with the brand of an informing Knave: Surely they who made theſe Lawes for the benefit of themſelves and their own Country, did intend a more current and juſt paſſage towards them, than thus to be obſtructed and baffeled. Such abuſes as theſe made Theodoſius *ſay as it is Recorded*, that a wiſe man did himſelf injuſtice by hazarding his Wiſdome and Eſtate for the benefit of his Nation; *and therefore ſome have not ſpared to urge that Cuſtoms and Impoſt, and Toles and Taxes might be taken away from honeſt laborious hazardous Trades and Adventurers, and be put upon litigious Suits at Law, and ſuch as make benefit of their corrupt breath, that is to ſay upon ſuch Lawyers as abuſe their Clyents, and ſuch malicious Clyents as abuſe the name of a juſt innocent Defendent. Nor is the Loſs in theſe by their Tranſportation all the injury, but when honeſt men well affected to the good of their Country, do detect theſe Caterpillers of the Common-wealth, who make ſo vaſt gain, as hath been denoted upon the materials ſo carefully prohibited, when they do endeavour by due courſe of Law to make ſtoppage thereof, and to have the offenders puniſhed; ſo many are the evaſions, ſuch combinations and intereſt in the Officers, who ought to puniſh the Offenders; ſuch favour have they in Courts of Juſtice, and deceptions in the Return of Writs, and in general ſuch affronts and diſcouragements as the deareſt Lover of his Country, or moſt intruſted in Trade, dares not attempt to prevent that miſchief which his eyes behold to fall upon his Nation, or which his own perſon feels to pick his pocket.* Thus far Mr. *W. Smith.*

To prevent all theſe inconveniences, it cannot be done without ſome alteration of ſome Laws, which is an Act of State; and I do preſume his Majeſty doth already, and the Parliament will alſo conſider of it; as to accept of any helps that may be contributed to them. In ſhort, I am of opinion, that if four things were done, there would be in a few moneths ſuch an alteration, which, if I ſhould now inſert, would be Incredible: yet I ſhall hint it; 1. To revive ſome former Act made in Parliament for

a certain ſeaſon, as in the 4th. of *Henr*: 7. and revived thrice afterwards, which was done upon the ſame complaint, as now is; which if in force with ſome alteration, would be one ſtop: A ſecond is, for all perſons to be accomptable for their wool, becauſe there is time after it is bought to be wayed up, and ſetched away out of thoſe Countreys, where the danger is for to get acquaintance for thoſe perſons, and to give ſecurity, as it is, from Port to Port, then being the ſame danger near the Sea. Thirdly, for *Ireland*, to have it confin'd to convenient Ports, both in *Ireland* and *England*. And when all is done, there muſt be ſome perſons of known Integrity, and not mercenary men that muſt have the care and inſpection over all. Fourthly, In thoſe Countreys where no Cloathing is, it would be requiſite for a Store-houſe for ſmall parcels of Wool, and a Bond given that none be ſold to Forriners which is of ſo eminent advantage, as is by ſome ſaid to the *Dutch*, *to be profit to the publick*, Millions of pounds Sterling *per annum*; and to inſtance one caſe Sir *Walter Rawleigh* accounts by this in his remains, *page* the 173, and 174. *that in one year and half was drawn to the* Hollanders, Hamburgers, *and* Embdenors, *at the leaſt two Millions of pounds Sterling, from* England *for Corn, in a time of ſcarcity in* England.

And if a Bond is ſo advantageous for ſuch Commodities that are liable to be much impared in long lying, it's doubtleſs abundantly more advantagous in ſuch a ſtable Commodity as wool is; and if practiſed would be of ſuch a uſe to *England*, that I think would enrich *England* more than I will now ſtand to account.

I may add a fifth, which is, that there may be a ſhort and quick Tryal of Offenders, and that in ſuch place as the Offender may have leaſt oppertunity for Evaſions.

We will conclude the whole with a ſhort ſurvey of ſome particular Immunities which Cloathing hath conferred upon *England* with which the glory of it extends to the very utmoſt inhabited parts of the world, and without which, the Ark of Gods mercy, and the glory of this Land is like to depart.

First, the reducing of Cloathing to *England* in Manufacture as well as in Materials (which must a thousand times repeat *Englands* gratitude to the memory of that ever renowned King *Edward* the Third) hath produced such opulent and magnificent societies of Merchants, as the whole world cannot again demonstrate, that is to say, first, the Merchant-Adventurers Company, whose Governours, President, Consults, and the like chief Officers are not of less esteem, where they please no seat themselves, then are the Residentiaries of the greatest Princes, and so much the more Cordial is their welcome, as each mans profit leads his affection beyond his Reverence to publick Embassies, because Proximity to a mans personal interest sits nearer in his thoughts then when he is involved in the publick concernment.

This Company hath by their Policy and Order, supplanted those societies of the Hance Towns (as they are called) who vending an inconsiderable number of Cloaths, and at low rates, did never the less account *England* obliged to them for their Markets and Shipping: Whereas at this day the Merchant Adventurer do utter ten times as many Cloaths Annually in the same Markets at far better prices; And in answer to the shipping which *England* had in those times from those Countreys at dear entertainment, this Trade of Cloathing, and this particular Company of Merchants, have furnished the Navy Royal from time to time, and upon all occasions with such strengths as they have not feared, if they have not awed the greatest Naval Forces saying upon the Ocean, he that may have the favour to pernse their Records, shall find what oppertune Service they did for their Country in the year Eighty-Eight, and since upon all military occasions wherein this Nation hath been embroyled with any other.

Next, the East-Land Company hath planted the Trade of Cloathing all about the Baltick Seas, which at this day imployes many Warlike Ships, and gives at great increase of Marriners to the no small growth of *Englands* strength at Sea.

The *Muscovia* Company have discovered the passage by the North Cape, and the great Trade of *Greenland*, what wealth occurs to *England* by the *Turky* and *East-India* Company, is not easie to be numbered; their shipping also being as strong, and rich

rich as any that swim upon the Seas. How one of them hath by the trade of Cloathing only engrossed all manner of wealth coming from the *Levant Seas*; And how the other of them hath established the rich Trades of Silks, Spices, Jewels, &c. In the Southern parts of the world, is by all Admired, though by none to be valued, and what strength of shipping these two Companyes have produced, as they have been wonderful, so they have been formedable to all Nations: what Contribution the Cloathing Trade with *Spain* and *France* hath given to *Englands* martin power, is by those Countrys themselves feared, as well as by *England* found to its great security: And as these unvaluable blessings have befallen *England* by the Trade of Cloathing, so politickly and providently drawn into Societies, Companyes, and Corporations; so the loose Transactions of Trade in other forthe Countreys have rendered them so poor at Sea, as were it not shipping of *England* and *Holland*, the very life of Commerce would perish, would return to the same Wilderness, & uselesness as it is now in *Greenland* and the *West Indies*, where civil Government hath not once been heard of.

Again, If comparison be made for richness of Trade between Cloathing and any, or all other substances of Merchandises, whereby any Nation, but more especially *England*, may be enriched, neither the Silks nor Furs, nor Wines, nor Spices, nor Bullion it self or all other Countreys can render that account of its own, or can in proportion equalize *England*, in Cloathing, Food, Shipping, Strength of people, and wealth of money.

About

About the Manufactureing of Wool.

THat this rich Treasure in it self, of far more worth than the Golden Mines of *India* to *England*, is so much degenerated, or adulterated in the Manufactureing thereof by many of the Manufactors, some of which wanting skill, others principles of honesty, the Laws in that case being so much neglected in *England*, and want of some new Laws for the new Drapers, hath occasioned the woollen Manufacture to be rendered contemptible both at home and abroad, and so much the more, or the rather, because the *Dutch*, *Flemins*, (and it is feared in time the *French* also) do by care and industry indeavour to excel our *English*; the consequence is to loose our *English* Trade, and this principally by a liberty taken, so that honest and conscientious persons come to dammage by some others false way of gains, according to Mr. *Childes* third head in that of Trade, and Interest; that the Advantage the *Dutch* have of us in all their Native Commodities is their exactness, by which meanes their credit is so, that it is taken by its contents, (and ours not) which is very advantageous, which is done by the qualifications of those persons that have the oversight, and are intrusted in that affair, which is not done in *England*, but generally the contrary.

In general all States and Common-wealths are supported by two providential works (viz.) Reward and Punishment; for as no Law can compel men to be corporally laborious, or studious in knowledge & literature, unless rewards be annexed to all such compulsion; so no providence can attend the preservation of profitable designes, either

either in Learning or Trade, unleſs ſuch puniſhments be enjoyned: This opinion that profound Senator Cicero alledgeth from Solon, one of the ſeven wiſe Græcians, and the only man of them which gave Lawes; and this in the weak and frail Eſtate of men and Nations, that unleſs they be as well encouraged in their endeavours, as puniſhed in their miſdemeanors, they will ſpeedily become Libertines, and ruin all as is too too much feared in this caſe in England at this day; and as before about the Wool, ſo the working for the greateſt part hath been confined to England this three hundred years, and untill theſe late years has been ſo preſerved, by the diligence of ſuch Officers as have been ordained and impowered, carefully to ſee the Manufactures kept under thoſe rules which the Laws have provided for their perfection; and ſeeing this Nation is by God peculiariſed in theſe two bleſſings (viz.) Wools and Manufactures, and through the vigilancy of its Monarches ſafe guarded by Laws, that the native Manufactures might not be undermined by the practices of Foreiners; their ancient providence exacts from the preſent age the ſame preſervation (as before in the Wool) that the Dutch do not undermine us out of all. Again, we may be taught by their diligence, who though they have few or no native Commodities, yet are rich and thriving; (and we who have all, are poor and decaying at leaſt the Country) who ſpare no attendance in overſeeing and ſearching the true makeing of their Manufactures as above, for their exactneſs, giving therefore power and Commiſſions to perſons of more than ordinary worth amongſt them (whom they call cure or care Maſters) to ſee every thing according to the Law; and wherever they find a defect, they make a default upon the Cloath, which firſt is recompenſed by a fine to the State for abuſing the Laws, and afterward remains to admoniſh the buyer, who thereby may guard his purſe; and in caſe the Clothier be abuſed by any of his Work-folks, he checks his dammage upon the true offender in his wages. Now in England there is ſo much the contrary, that many perſons take liberty for want of a regular or legal courſe followed, either for time or forme in working; there is not any of the Relations to Cloathing which doth obſerve ſuch an exact rule of Apprentiſhip (which is not the leaſt cauſe that the Manufactures of Wool are ſo abuſively and deceptiouſly made in England) notwithſtanding it is enjoyned in very ſtrict and penal

man-

manner by the Statute Lawes; the chief inconveniences of which, is, that the Trade so general in use, and maintenance of even numberless Families, doth by its own vast exorbancy convert into Corruptions, and so those great multitudes of people become discredited, beggered, and finally ruined, to the destruction of themselves and the Nation which gave them so great a Blessing.

Another prejudice and not the least, is, that the Nation which hath given them being, and invested them with such materials for Cloathing, is dishonered by false and abusive works: And it is not a little scandal to that Nation which God hath particularly endowed with those blessings which others want, when its people shall divert those good things which God hath bestowed upon it to evil and deceptious practises; In this consideration it is observable (by some) how little comparitively is the Drunkenness of those Countrys which produce Wines, and wherein lies their personal riches, and their Nations Honour, though their other sins may sufficiently swell their ultimate account; yet doubtless it strengthens their last Apology, in that they abuse not that endowment which God hath made the original of their Being and Subsistance.

Another consideration is, the Cheat it puts upon all the world, for though every Country hath not the benefit of the Manufacture in themselves, yet are there few of them condemned to such ignorance as not to discern the Cozenage which false Cloathing puts upon them, in which case to the aforesaid dishoner they add a curse, and it was a chief care in Jacobs practise for a Blessing, that he turned it not into a Curse; how much more is this of consideration, when the blessing comes by gift, and not by design or procurement.

And further, great may be the thought of heart, when the sins of false Lucre and Covetuousness (which is Idolatry) are in full pursuance of such as have the full plenty to make weight and measure, yet make it the Art of their practises as well as the practise of their Art, to Cozen both the wise and weak: It can be no great wonder, nor without abundance of presidents, if God for sins of such wilfulness remove his blessings, (with which this Nation is peculiarly enriched and dignified,) and give them to a people which will render him a better, more just, and more profitable account of his Talent; and its no news, that though England be by the Almighty,

chiefly

chiefly ordained to produce the Materials, yet the Manufactures be given to a people, which will render him a better Account, all this and much more is expected, if the Native people continue to abuse the Native Commodity, as of necessity they must, when they know not how to use it. The wisdome of our Ancestors hath been liberally manifested in this particular. First, That the Manufactors be constantly made Apprentices for seaven years at least, the contrary is one great reason, that by ignorance so many abuses are, that are unremediable: Another reason, why Apprentices are generally confined to seaven years servitude, is to the end, that professors (in each Art) multiply not beyond the support of their Trade, which were not to increase good Subjects, but Vagabonds, which doubtless was not the intention of King Edward the 3d. (ever to be remembred by an English man, when in his defire in bringing Clothing to England, a chief part was to multiplie his people, as by his Native and Allegeant Subjects (such as by and by you will understand) he might securely possess the Conquests wherewith God had blessed him, which were beyond any Christian Prince's in his time. It is utterly against reason that a Nation can be poor, whose people are numerous, if their Industry be compelled and incouraged, and their Idleness be punished and reformed. It is the opinion of some, that it's not the barrenness of a Country which can forbid this Maxim. The Scots are an abounding and numerous people, and they have a soyle which to a Travellers eye, seems to produce nothing towards a so vast maintenance of the body of that people; yet are they in all parts of the world a warlike and honoured Nation, helpful to all Princes in their Wars, and ready upon occasion to return to the Assistance of their Brethren, be their case good or bad. The Dutch are a numerous Nation, daily multiplying in a Country which hath in comparison nothing of its own growth to support them, either in Food or Cloathing; yet they want nothing, neither in necessaries or wealth, because they are industrious. What Creek of the Seas do they leave unsisted? and in shipping, are so stored as most parts of the world is love or fear them. Now a great increase (as I said) of good people (as above hinted in King Edward) rests upon the regulation of Trade, for it is not the number of workmen, but number of good workmen which increaseth Families, and it's Families which increaseth and spreadeth good

people; the other for want of knowledg and skill, being fixed no where, because their labours will not maintain themselves, much-less Families: For who will use a workman, who hath neither skill nor credit, when he can imploy one that hath both?

Of principle importance therefore is the Regulation of Apprentisships, both to the best increase of people, and to the honest, creditable, and wealthy Manufactures of Wool, and especially of Cloathing, (being the Antientst Manufacture) for want of which not only the former denoted faults are daily found in their works, but good work-men are undersold and ruined (as formerly hinted) by bad, and the whole Nation involved in great dishonour, as after you will hear.

Now Justice, which all men cry up, and few practise, is a vertue both divine and humane; Divine Justice is either from God to man, wherein his Providence is his Justice, by which he governeth the world, or it is from man towards God, and then its piety, whereby he returns to God prayse and glory for his numberless blessings in Republicks, Cityes and Towns, its Equity, the fruit whereof is Peace & Plenty; in domestick relations between Man & Wife, it's Unity and Concord; from Servants to Masters, good Will and Diligence; from Masters to Servants, its Humanity and Gentleness; and from a man to his own body, health and happiness. Here is some of all these Relations but is necessary and important to the Reformations in the abuses, defaults, deceptions, and grievances committed upon Cloathing, which in this discourse have in some measure been discovered, and by which both God and man are justly provoked.

The Justice we are to use to relieve the complaints before exhibited, is either distributive, or Commutative; Justice distributive, is to give each man his deserts, whether it be honour or punishment: And Commutative Justice, is in bargaining, bartering, exchanging, or in any transactions between man and man, to use all means to keep Promises, Covenants and Contracts; and for a man to behave himself as he would have others do to him; to receive the Innocent into protection, to repress and punish offenders; without which, common intercourse and humane society must necessarily be dissolved; and for preservation whereof, I have read, that in Antient times, the Fathers have not spared their own Sons.

The

The Ægyptian Kings, to whom Antiquity gives the privilege of making Laws, the Græcians, *and* Romans *desired Justice, and would not violate it towards their Enemies; so just also were the* Lacedemonians, *and so free from distrusting each other, as even for the publick safety, they used neither Locks nor Barrs, insomuch that one asking* Archidamus, *who those Governours were, which so justly, happily, and gloriously governed the Common-wealth of* Lacedemon: *he answered, that they were first the Laws, & afterwards the Magistrates executing those Lawes: for Law is the rule of Justice, and Justice the end of the Law, which indeed is the Life of all.*

The ready way to rectifie abuses about Cloathing, were to compare them with the rules of the Law provided for them, for which there is Law, (and new Laws where they are wanting) nevertheless holds not in all points. For instance, the Law empowers the Merchants and Drapers to be their own Searchers, and to punish the Cloathiers Purse, as they find his works to be faulty; and so they do, to the no small grief of the Cloathier: but the Retayling-Buyer is not hereby at all relieved; the Draper selling to him these faults, for which he was before paid by the Cloathier; the Merchants do the same, by causing their Cloathiers to bring their Manufactures into the Merchants private Ware-Houses, where their own Servants are Judges, who upon searching the Cloath, do make, and marke faults enough, for which they have reparable abatements, but themselves again do practise all fraudulent wayes they can to barter and exchange those faults away, without giving any allowance for them. I speak not of all but some; and though sometimes they be detected, yet find they means to save their purses, whilst their Nation suffers in honour, and the Laws are vilified to Foreiners, who stain the Justice of the Nation with weakness and fraud. True it is, that in the *Netherlands*, where their cunning is as piercing, as their practice is common, they (even every buyer) do search with diligence, and make themselves reparations, first to the Merchants great loss, and so in course to the Cloathiers no small dammage: But in all this, the State remains much dishonoured by the scandal, and rob'd of those Fines which the Lawes

in punnishment, do give to the publick Revenue, which if they were rightly and legally attended, would render a vast gain to the Common-wealth by a general Reformation.

Now in finding out the causes why Manufacture in Cloathing becomes so abused, there may be good use of the Drapers and Merchants knowledg and skill; yet the application of the remedy is a work of State and Policy, in making and executing the Laws proportionable to the grievance, in which instance it doth not hold; for though the Merchants and Drapers be able Searchers of the abuses, yet they are not competent reformers of the grievances, because they are interested in participating of those gaines which the faults occasion and intend. Therefore it is requisite that both Cloathiers, Merchants, and Drapers, may be joyned by the Magistrates approbation.

Nor is this all the abuse; for in such parts of the world as the Buyers are not in ability of knowledg, like the *Dutch*, who make Cloaths themselves, and especially in those parts where the difference in Religion is so great, as it is between Christians and Turks, there the corrupt Merchant causeth the Name of God to be Blasphemed: for when those people; (whose eye and judgment gives them not so good information as doth their proof and wearing) do find themselves cheated in their Garments, they presently conclude that there is no fear of God in that place, nor obedience to their Rulers, for Conscience, which must assuredly procure much scandal to Christian Religion.

It hath been noted that the original of money, was from sheep, affirming that the Antient Signature upon money, was a Sheep; and its further observed, that Mercandizes were the cause of money; and there being no greater Merchandize than are from the Sheep, it is evident, that there is nothing more requisite towards the enriching this Nation (whose peculiar blessing rests in Sheep) than strictly to hold the Manufactures to the letter and rule provided for their just making; and that the Laws be unpartially executed; and it being apparent that this Nation cannot be rich without a constant utterance of Cloathing, nor can that be done without a perfect reformation in the particulars of the works.

It doth undeniably follow, that Cloathing must be purged from

from its Corruption, or *England* must be poor. It is therefore the Manufactors which abuse the Wool, and thereby improvidently give advantage to the *Dutch*: whereas a perfection in the making of Cloaths in *England*, will capacitate the *English* to undersel the *Dutch*.

Now for a true Reformation and Regulation of those dammages that have befallen *England*, by the false and deceptious Manufacturing of Wools, and to bring the Trade to its primitive worth; we must rightly understand the cause of those defects, or else we can never prescribe suitable remedies as before, but the contrary; the supposed remedy will be worse than the disease. The principle or grand cause of all our misery, in all these things formerly spoken to both in Transportation of Wool, and the bad Manufacturing thereof, is by that division in Trade, both in Merchant and Cloathier, by which meanes it falls out, that by the consequence of one mans single Act, a thousand persons may be undone; this I have observed in several persons in this Kingdome, and I know no way so profitable to prevent (at least some of that mischief) as by incorporating the Manufactures, and faithfulness therein; as witness *Norwich*, and *Colechester*; the misery is the liberty, taken in that which is of necessity a Union, as before by a Law, and more liberty by a Law for some in matters of Conscience, for compulsion can never make that unity as the Law of that Relation doth require, in this as in all others things, *to do to others, as we would have others do unto us*, which is the Royal Law of Heaven) The great and main inducement to these two things, as good reason (if we will have Trade) to observe the *Dutch* in both these things, as not the least cause of their riches, (having nothing of their own growth comparatively with *England*,) yet are a Rich people, and much by our Commodities, whilst we are disputing whether it be good for us: And I cannot pass by what I have heard of the Follies of the *Indians*, that will part with a rich Treasure for a Trifle; so we are to the *Dutch* and *French* by their policies and circumventing practices, which draw from us, and still covet to exhaust the Wealth and Coyne of this Kingdome, and so with one Commodity (as formerly the Wool) to weaken us, and finally

bea-

beat us out of our Trades in other Countreys, and thus they do (especially the *Dutch*) more fully obtain their purposes by their convenient priviledges, and settled constitutions, by which they draw multitudes of Merchants to Trade with them, and many other Nations to inhabit amongst them, which makes them populous and there they make Store-Houses of all Forein Commodities, wherewith upon every occasion of Scarcity and Dearth, they are able to furnish Foreiners with plenty of those Commodities, which before in time of plenty they Engrossed & brought home from the same places; which doth greatly augment Power and Treasure to their Stocks, besides the Common Good in setting the Poor on work, as in several particulars mentioned by Mr. *Child*.

1. *By having in their greatest Councils of State and Warr, Trading Merchants that have lived abroad in most parts of the world, who have not only the Theoretical knowledg, but the Practical Experience of Trade; by whom Laws & Orders are contrived, and Peace with Forein Princes projected, to the great advantage of their Trade.*

2. *Their Law of* Gavel-kind, *whereby all their Children possess an equal share of their Fathers Estates after their Decease, and so are not left to wrastle with the World in their Youth, with inconsiderable assistance of Fortune, as most of our youngest Sons of Gentlemen in* England *are, who are bound Apprentices to Merchants.*

3. *Their exact making of all their Native Commodities.*

4. *Their giving great encouragement and immunities to the inventors of new Manufactures, and the discoverers of any new Mysteries in Trade, and to those that shall bring the Commodities of other Nations first in use and practice amongst them, for which the Author never goes without his due reward allowed him at the publick charge.*

5. *Their contriving and building of great Ships to sayle with small charge, not above one third of what we are at for Ships of the same burthen in* England. *And compelling their said Ships (being of small force) to sayle alwayes in Fleets, to which in all time of danger they allow a Convoy.*

6. *Their*

6. *Their parcimonious and thrifty living, which is so extraordinary, that a Merchant of one hundred thousand pound Estate with them, will scarce spend so much* per annum, *as one of fifteen hundred pounds Estate in* London.

7. *The Education of their Children, as well Daughters as Sons, all which, be they of never so great quality or Estate, they always take care to bring up to write perfect good hands, and to have the full knowledge and use of Arithmetick and Merchants Accounts.*

8. *The lowness of their Customs, and the height of their Excise: which is certainly the most equal and indifferent Tax in the world, and least prejudicial to any people, as might be made appear, were it the subject of this discourse.*

9. *The careful providing for, and imployment of their poor: which it is easie to demonstrate, can never be done in* England *comparitively to what it is with them, while it's left to the care of every Parish to look after their own only.*

10. *Their use of Banks, which are of so immense advantage to them, that some, (not without good grounds,) have estimated the profit of them to the publick, to amount to, at least one Million of pounds Sterling,* per annum.

11. *Their toleration of different opinions in matters of Religion, by reason whereof, many industrious people of other Countreys, that dissent from the established Government of their own Churches, resort to them with their Families and Estates, and after a few years co-habitation with them, become of the same Common Interest.*

12. *Their Law-Merchants, by which all controversies between Merchants and Tradesmen are decided in three or four dayes time, and that not at the fortieth part (I might say in many cases not the hundreth part) of the Charge they are with us.*

13. *The Law that is in use among them for Transference of Bills for debt from one man to another.*

14. *Their keeping up publick Registers of all Land, and Houses Sold or Mortgaged, whereby many chargeable Law-Suits are prevented, and the securities of Lands and Houses rendered indeed, such as we commonly call them Real Securities.*

15. *The lowness of Interest of money with them, which in peaceable times exceeds not three* per cent. per annum.

To

To Conclude with a short Survey of those things in General, seeing my time will not permit to enlarge upon it particularly (according to my purpose) nor so to Correct the former Papers for want of time, being exposed to much Travel, I must humbly beg the Reader's pardon for some Errors passing the Press in my absence.

The first thing observed in the *Dutch*, is to have experienc'd persons in all Councels skil'd, as Well Practical, as Theoretical knowledge, which is without all peradventure of such advantage, that nothing but experience of it can put the value.

The second I shall not touch.

The third I have at large treated (*viz.*) of the advantage in exactness in all Commodities; of which we have sufficient experience at home as well as abroad, that one and the same Commodity for goodness, yet if one have the reputation more than the other, it shall not only have a quick Market, but shall yield 10 or 15 *per cent*, more than the other. I speak this of what is matter of Fact in the woollen Manufacture in my own knowledge.

The fourth is the Incouragement to those that are any way beneficial to the Publick, which is contrary in *England* to its shame, as well as to its apparent Loss. Hence it is that those persons that are imployed in publick affairs, that have not principles of honesty, are liable to those temptations of Bribery and [illegible] [illegible] beyond my space. courses for advantage

Time permits me not to make any further recapitulation. But for my Language in the whole, the ingenuous peruser will, I trust, rather value my serious Intentions (while I write to matter of Controversy, but what may redound to the Honour and Advantage of his Majesty and Kingdoms) than criticize upon my defect of Scholastick phrase, or Logical method, who being never enriched with opportunities of education thereto, yet have so much of a Christian and true English-man, as to wish every Reader Happiness both here and hereafter. *FINIS.*

ERRATA.

Page 4, *l.* 15, for Land 7, Bank; [illegible] for [illegible] by; *p.* 10, *l.* 18, insert Advantage of [illegible] for [illegible] *p.* 19, *l.* [illegible] for [illegible] *p.* [illegible] for [illegible] *l.* [illegible] for [illegible] Preiness 7, Bank; *l.* 25, for Bond [illegible] Bank; *p.* 24, *l.* 7, for Drapers 7, Draperies; *p.* 25, *l.* 15, for Manufactures 7, Manufactors.

33288